

## NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 92

Copyright January 18, 2007

email: [jimash3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimash3@sbcglobal.net)

*"Behold the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."* Isaiah 42:9

### FAITH AND CONDUCT

Is faith related to conduct? Is conduct related to faith? Does improper conduct negate the reward of faith? What is faith? How may one acquire great faith? If you have great faith and then do some reprehensible act or acts, does that conduct negate your standing with God? Let's see if we can find some answers. Let's begin with faith and then look at conduct.

#### FAITH

I believe most of the Church<sup>1</sup> today neither understands nor practices activities that produce faith because of lack of knowledge. One of my responsibilities is to impart such knowledge through my writing and teaching. Here are some scripture verses to start on:

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."<sup>2</sup>

"Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?"<sup>3</sup>

"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"<sup>4</sup>

"That no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident for the just shall live by faith."<sup>5</sup>

From these verses we learn that you and I are justified by faith. Twice in these verses the apostle Paul also uses the term "hearing of faith." Then in the first scripture listed above Paul writes that faith comes by hearing the word of God. In that verse "word" is translated from the Greek word "rhema." In conclusion, therefore, faith comes by hearing rhema words from God. Hearing, in this case, may not be detected audibly with our ears but may be "heard" inaudibly through the Holy Spirit of God as light, delicate, intuitive thoughts that may be completely ignored. Our God is an equal opportunity God, but He will not demand equal time.

---

<sup>1</sup>The term "the Church" does not refer to bricks and mortar but to individuals who claim Jesus as Lord of their life. The temple of God today is the physical body of everyone in whom dwells the Spirit of God.

<sup>2</sup>Romans 10:17.

<sup>3</sup>Galatians 3:2.

<sup>4</sup>Galatians 3:5.

<sup>5</sup>Galatians 3:11; Habakkuk 2:4.

You must give it to Him. You must make time for God or do without His blessings. Time given to Him is the cost of receiving His blessings.

In my experience,<sup>6</sup> I have discovered two ways that one may receive or hear rhema words from God:<sup>7</sup>

(1) The Spirit may quicken to your heart a word, words or a thought so that it becomes a rhema (spoken) word to your heart. That may occur as one is

a) reading the bible, or

b) listening to someone else speak or read a bible verse, or is

c) interrupted suddenly "out of the blue" at an unexpected time with a word or thought that may be totally unrelated to the Bible or anything spiritual, or is

d) convicted in his heart as the result of hearing the word of God preached. The Spirit has wide latitude in what He does. He has His own software package no one else is privy to and it seems to this servant that He enjoys surprises.

(2) A second way to hear rhema words from the mouth of God is to learn to hear them in your daily quiet time with Him. God is not limited to this time-frame but it may be the best way to start the day. As you learn this walk with God, He may interrupt you at any time of day or night with something He wants to say. Then is the time to listen.

This second way is by far the more rewarding of the two because once you learn to experience this blessing, it is continual<sup>8</sup> and every word He speaks is a rhema word.

---

<sup>6</sup>Everyone reflects or ministers his own spiritual experience. Listen carefully to someone speak or talk and you may detect where he is in his walk with God – what he has experienced. The way to expand this measurement of growth is to learn to hear the voice of God, because revelation is the source of true knowledge. Therefore as you learn to hear rhema words from the Lord continually, your experience/knowledge will grow exponentially.

<sup>7</sup>In these two ways, I have excluded words received by one who holds the office of Prophet and one who has the Spiritual gift of prophecy.

<sup>8</sup>Not continuous but continual which means occurring in steady, rapid but not unbroken sequences compared with continuous, which means without cessation or interruption. The same concept is contained in Paul's admonition to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

I have experienced both ways and the *second way* is exponentially better than the first. The Lord has said to me that the *second way* is characteristic of one of the ***new things***<sup>9</sup> He is doing in this last generation before the Rapture.

The *second way* is not essential for salvation but is conducive to greater spiritual growth and understanding than anything I have encountered thus far in my *walk with God*. There is no way to overvalue the benefits of hearing rhema words of God continually. It will change your life forever. The rhema words received will confirm the logos and the logos will confirm the rhema either in detail or principle.

The Lord has confirmed to me that ***everyone*** in whom the Holy Spirit dwells may learn the *second way*. It is a *learned way* through the Holy Spirit instead of a spiritual gift (see 1 Corinthians 12:7-11) or as in one who is called to the office of Prophet (see Ephesians 4:11). This is not to imply that one called to the office of Prophet or one who is given a Spiritual gift does not learn after his call and after the gifting, but is to distinguish between these two and the *second way* to hear rhema words from the mouth of God about which I write and teach.

Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice."<sup>10</sup> A soul at rest and a spirit at peace is prepared to hear His voice. Have you ever wondered why Jesus used sheep, shepherd and sheepfold as examples in His teaching? It is not because the sheep speak to the shepherd. It is because the shepherd speaks to the sheep and they hear his voice. If the sheep do not hear the shepherd's voice continually they may become lost.<sup>11</sup>

I have been instructed to teach and write about how to listen for and to hear rhema words from the mouth of God continually. I have also been told that those who listen and obey the teaching will receive the same blessings about which I write. This teaching is in a seven-letter series I have written entitled, "**A BREAKTHROUGH WORTH WRITING ABOUT**" (my *letters* dated November 04-May 05) that I will publish in book

---

<sup>9</sup>See Isaiah 42:9.

<sup>10</sup>The Lord, as the Commander of His army in the war in progress against Satan and his forces, has said to me, "The listening ear commands the Commander." Concerning the Rapture, He has said to me, "The listening ear (of His bride) summons the Bridegroom from His bridal chamber." There is no way to overemphasize the importance and the blessing of learning to listen for and to hear His rhema words continually. Read John 10:27.

<sup>11</sup>See John 10:1-29 for lessons Jesus taught concerning the shepherd, sheep, and the sheepfold.

form in 2007.

This breakthrough is one of the ***new things*** about which Isaiah prophesied<sup>12</sup> that makes today one of the most interesting and exciting times to be alive on planet earth because ***many in this generation will live to see and experience the Rapture.***<sup>13</sup> The reason it is new is because it is unique *to this generation* and could not have happened in any other previous generation since the world began. Try that one on for size! It fits me and I like it!

We have briefly examined faith which comes by hearing rhema words from God. Now let's look at **CONDUCT.**

In order to examine conduct spiritually, one essential is to distinguish between sin and mistakes. I have written about this distinction and defined both sin and mistakes in detail in my letter No. 86, entitled **JESUS OF NAZARETH, Part Two**, dated July 20, 2006. The following brief excerpts are taken from that letter:

**Sin as it relates to conduct**

Sin is deliberately disobeying God. **With one sin, Adam committed suicide and homicide against the whole human race.** This one statement alone should be enough to convince you that *sin is not inevitable*. Neither Adam nor Lucifer was created to fail. God created man as a free moral agent to be governed from the heart (man's compass) by love. In order to obey from the heart (the source of good and evil in man), one must have the freedom to disobey; hence the reason for the failure of both Lucifer and Adam. Disobedience is called sin. That means you either deliberately do something God has forbidden or you fail to do something God has commanded. Even though Eve disobeyed (sinned) first, because she was deceived and Adam sinned knowingly, Adam is the one who was charged with the sin which condemned both himself and the whole human race. The apostle John wrote, "Whoever abides in Him (Christ) *does not sin.*"<sup>14</sup> When Jesus healed a man who had been a cripple for thirty-eight years because of sin, He said to him, "*Sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.*"<sup>15</sup> Jesus also told a woman taken in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you, go and *sin no more.*"<sup>16</sup>

The apostle John also wrote concerning Christ, "If we

---

<sup>12</sup>See Isaiah 42:9.

<sup>13</sup>1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. I know someone to whom the Lord has prophesied more than once that he would not die but would be taken in the Rapture.

<sup>14</sup>1 John 3:6.

<sup>15</sup>See John 5:1-14 for the complete story.

<sup>16</sup>See John 8:3-11 for the complete story.

confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”<sup>17</sup>

We have just learned that (1) the apostle John wrote, “Whoever *abides in Him* (Christ) *does not sin*” and (2) that Jesus told two people prior to the cross to “*sin no more.*” It is evident from these scripture verses that as we grow and mature in the Lord, *sin is not inevitable*. **It is a choice.**

Here are rhema words on the subject of health and sin given to Nell Lewis by Jesus when He visited her in the hospital in Dallas the first week of July, 2005, excerpted from my letter No 83 dated March 17, 2006. The bold font, italics and footnotes are added for emphasis. Listen as we eavesdrop on the Master.

“And I defeated sin on the cross also. I won the battle over Satan. He has no power over you *unless you give it to him*. You must not – you need not sin *unless you choose to do so*. I won the battle over Satan with My blood and the cross. ***You must choose to be healthy every day and you must choose not to sin every day.***<sup>18</sup>

When I said on the cross, ‘It is finished,’ I was saying through all this I have defeated Satan. I have come to do this battle with Satan and I have won. I took from him that which he took from the first Adam. And I took this Victory to heaven and gave it to God, My Father. He then gave it back to Me and I give it to you. The kingdom of heaven has come on earth as it is in heaven. *You can have it now – you can believe and live here now as it is in heaven.*

“You must believe to have it.

“He also said to me, ‘Read My Gospels – read My words, learn My words. Not what others say I said, not

---

<sup>17</sup>1 John 1:9.

<sup>18</sup>**You must choose to be healthy, that is, claim your healing and choose not to sin every day.** This is spiritual warfare against the enemy who wants to distract you any way he can. Illness is a down payment on death caused by Satan. Anger, resentment and unforgiveness, for example, will literally kill you. These are open doors through which the enemy sends his spirits of evil to steal that which Jesus purchased for you on the cross. This is completely in line with the teaching of Jesus in the “model prayer.” (Matthew 6:9-13). Give us this day our daily bread means that we are to spend time with Him daily in order to receive our guidance, sustenance, maintenance and provision from him as protection from the temptation of the evil one. When, in your daily quiet time with God, you learn to listen for and hear rhema words from Him continually, those words will protect you from the enemy and provide health and healing for your body. “He sent forth His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:20) is proof of this statement. It is obedience to His rhema word that heals, **not the meaning of the spoken rhema word.** Hearing His rhema words continually is the true antidote for all of life’s pitfalls.

what others say I meant by what I said. You read My Word that I spoke in the Gospels. What did I say to those I healed? I said, ‘The kingdom is near you’ and I said ‘***Go and sin no more.***’ ***This I also say to you.***

“I took back all that Satan took from Adam and He (Satan) is a defeated enemy.

“You must make your choice every day.”

Now let’s distinguish between sin and mistakes.

**Mistakes as they relate to conduct**

It was revealed to me, as I wrote in my letter No. 86, that when Abram (and later Abraham) lied to two different kings about his wife, ***that was not sin but a mistake.*** A complete explanation was given in that letter so I will not repeat the details here. You must read the details in that letter to understand that Abraham and Sarah, who had no children, both *conspired* to save Abraham’s life, believing they were doing God’s will, in order to preserve his seed and produce an heir as God had prophesied. In this *righteous conspiracy* Abraham’s faith did not waiver. He was therefore righteous before God in the midst of the conspiracy because (1) faith pleases God and (2) righteousness in the sight of God is determined by faith. Therefore faith (not conduct) equates to righteousness and righteousness equates to faith before God.

Do not conclude that lying, per se, is approved by God. It is not.

The Lord also said to me that Abram/Abraham experienced a learning curve like other men, including myself, even though he is listed as a legend of faith in Hebrews chapter eleven.<sup>19</sup>

**Rhema words received on March 9, 2001**

“Be aggressive in what you pray – not in what you do. The ‘being’ *exceeds the ‘doing’.* *When that is the case, then I can direct you.* When you think ‘to do’ first, the ‘doing’ takes precedence. This must not be. The ‘being’ must take precedence. Then My will, My way can expediently come to pass. **Only as you seek Me and My face first** may I guide and direct you. It has always been that way.

“My admonition was, ‘**Be ye** therefore perfect,’ not ‘**do perfect things.**’ For when your fellowship is with Me first, the guidance is free to flow. **That is the way to be perfect.** When you discern My will and act on My instructions, **then what you do is perfect because it is My will.** To be in and to walk in My perfect will is My desire for My servants. That way everyone in the circle is blessed. That is the way the kingdom of heaven has come

---

<sup>19</sup>It is interesting to note that Abraham became enrolled in the faith hall of fame without the Bible.

on earth as it is in heaven.”

Rhema words received on November 8, 2004

“You see what I am perfecting you for. I am perfecting you to walk in My perfect will. The way to become perfect is to walk in My will for My will is perfect. That is the way you are perfected<sup>20</sup>. As I instruct and you obey, as you then act, you are perfect because My will is perfect. **Obedience of My rhema word to you MAKES you perfect.** That does not mean you will not make mistakes, that you will not become disgusted, or say things you shouldn’t, but that you will be righteous as you make those mistakes because your faith will remain unwavering. **Faith, My son, is My measure of perfection, not perfect conduct.** Now you are beginning to see what I am teaching, what I am revealing to you. As you move out and share with others My revelational knowledge to you, it will impact them as with (name withheld) last Sunday morning at Hillcrest. There are many more like that, My son.

“Hereafter just take the opportunities as they are presented, one by one, and as they occur, the blessings will flow. With regard to the rest of today, just be attentive and available at My interruption, I say unto you this morning. That’s all it takes, My son. Do you not now see that? Really simple but really profound. Blessings to you and Me, greatness to others.

“You praise and give Me the glory which allows Me to glorify you. We then may have a glorious time together. True glory always involves more than one – another party. One giving, the Other receiving and both have a glorious time.”

Later that afternoon I asked the Lord what I should do about a particular matter and He replied, “Talk to Me. My son as you wait on Me nothing is lost. Thank you for asking – for remembering to ask Me. You are free to go about the remainder of the day.”

Note: As He said these last words to me I was reminded of words in the Southwest Airlines commercial, “You are free to move about the country.”

Here is a summary of the high points in this letter:

(1) Since faith comes from hearing, here are two ways it may be appropriated:

(a) The Spirit may suddenly quicken to your heart a thought, a message, a word of instruction or enlightenment or a scripture verse, for example, so that it becomes a rhema word.

(b) By learning (and it is a learning process) to

hear rhema words from the mouth of God continually in your daily quiet time with Him and at other times that He may choose. This second way is exponentially more conducive to growth because it is continual. All of the attributes of God are in His word. Those attributes, including health and protection from the enemy, are imparted to you according to your needs, obedience and willingness to spend time listening to Him. Revelation is the source of true knowledge.

(2) Jesus commanded us to be perfect.<sup>21</sup> The way to determine His perfect will for your life is by learning to listen to Him. Then is when He will tell you. Each day you walk in His will, *you are perfect and you are being perfected because His will is perfect.* As you learn to hear His rhema words continually, He will reveal to you why He formed you in the womb and what He has called you to do. That’s one of the things He wants to tell you. He wants an intimate relationship with you, *attainable only through dialogue.*

(3) When you learn to listen to Him continually, your faith will grow exponentially since faith comes by hearing. As that continues, your obedience, whether minimal, usual or with boldness before the throne of Grace, may cause the Lord to change His objective for your life. That has happened to me more than once. In one sense, your response to His rhema words determines His objective for your life.

(4) As you walk in God’s perfect will, you may make mistakes, you may become disgusted and you may say things you should not say, *but you will be righteous in God’s sight.* That is why Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement and parted asunder – that means that they had a donnybrook of a word fight – and both went on their way righteous in God’s sight.<sup>22</sup> It’s time we took the halo off of everyone whose names are in the Bible except Jesus. And it’s time we quit equating perfect conduct to being in the perfect will of God.

(5) Sin, of course, must be dealt with, confessed and repented of. *But one important thing in the content of this letter is the distinction made between sin and mistakes.* Mistakes do not negate the blessings of walking in God’s will which is perfect and which perfects us as we do so.

---

<sup>20</sup>Even Jesus, during His personal ministry, was in the process of being perfected the same way – by walking in the will of the Father. He was perfected by the cross. (Luke 13:32).

---

<sup>21</sup>Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

<sup>22</sup>See Acts 15:36-40.